THE

Theatrical Observer.

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice."

No. 55. Monday, Jan. 7, 1822. Price 1d.

DRURY LANE,

On Saturday night no part of the Theatre was well filled, although Mr. Elliston, Mr. Munden, Mr. Knight, and Mr. Harley, together with Mrs. Edwin, combined their highly comic powers to make the humourous, but absurd Comedy of *Secrets worth Knowing*, thoroughly amusing, and although the laugh—compelling Farce of *Modern Antiques*, was excellently represented with the aid of the last four, of the above named Performers. It is difficult to fully account for the poor attendance on such an evening—the weather was fine—the season one of enjoyment, the pieces well known; and they were from that very circumstance likely to attract by their liveliness.

It is truly discouraging to the Manager to find some of his best efforts thus neglected by the Public. *Comedy* at this house is in fact represented in a much superior manner to *Tragedy;* as in the former almost every character is filled by a first-rate Performer in his particular line, whereas in the latter there are scarcely more than one or two representatives of principal parts, that can pretend to any-thing like excellence. *Mr. Kean*, no doubt, is a host in himself; and *Miss Edmiston* is bursting into general notice, a candidate for the *Siddonian* chair; but what *complete* satisfaction can they give to those who look for the full effect of a drama at the hands of *all* who have a part in representing it? It is evident that some *very powerful* stimulous to public curiosity is the only thing that can bring hither numerous audiences. *Novelty* attended with *sterling merit*, appears to us the only chance of reviving affairs here; for, however attractive *Spectacle* has proved to be for a time, we cannot recommend a further deterioation of public taste in this way. Mr. Elliston, we would fain believe, is beginning to be convinced that the liberal encouragement of dramatic talent, and of histrionic genius, is the surest foundation for his future success. If he aims exclusively at this means of attraction, he will merit the support of every friend of the British Stage; and it would well become the leaders of taste and fashion, by their example, to conduct hither the other ranks of society to maintain the cause of *Genius*, and render it triumphant over empty, noisy, tinsel-decked *folly*, which may occupy for its hour the eye or the ear, but sends us home without a single reflection worthy an intellectual being.

COVENT GARDEN.

The success of this Theatre rather increases than abates, and Saturday evening proved again propitious to the interest of the treasury: the pit and galleries were very full, and the boxes more numerously attended, than that division of the house has lately been. The entertainments produced their usual meed of applause, and Miss Hallande sang her first song infinitely better than we have for some time heard: she did not appear to labour in the manner she was wont to do; and there was a more softened expression in the tones of her voice, than usually mark them. By the bye, we trust that Mr. Abbott received no *serious* injury from his uncle coming in contact with his sword, which, on the rescue of Silvia he had let fall to the ground. This Gentleman should, really, be extremely cautious of how he ventures his person with missile weapons:—there is a natural furor of action and sentiment about him when upon the stage, which if not tempered by prudence, may place him in more imminent danger than a real encounter with his assumed opponents.

The Lovers of Music are this evening to be regaled by the performance of the Beggars Opera, in which Miss Stephens resumes her professional duties on our London boards: the excellence of this Lady in the character of Polly is too generally known to need our anticipating remarks; but it is with regret, that we divest our thoughts of a subject on which they so pleasingly dwell, and fix them on another which creates a sentiment less pleasing, we mean the indelicate, unwise, and cruel conduct of the Managers in putting *Miss Hallande* into the character of *Captain Macheath!!* Does Miss Stephens' fame rest on so slender a foundation, that the part of Polly *only* could be selected for her debut, when that selection could only be made by the sacrifice of the feelings of another, and of strict modesty? Have the Managers so long upheld the cause of the *legitimate* drama, that they can now with impunity encroach upon that of decency? Has the public *so ill* rewarded them through the commencement of the season, that they are compelled as a *last resort*, to hold up as an *attraction* (or as a *combination* of attraction) the sacrificed feelings of an amiable lady? And sacrificed in what manner? not to the act alone of dimming with the breath of partial immodesty the brightest jewel in fair virtue's breast, but by placing her in a character, which in itself, excites repugnance and disgust! Miss Hallande we highly respect and admire; to her, therefore, personally, we direct not our observations; but if there are not some few who will exercise their sense, and teach the Managers their duty to the public, and to the performers—the power of criticism yields its functions, and expires.

☞ The first and second volumes are bound, and ready for delivery.

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Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

This Evening will be performed

The Beggars' Opera.

Capt. Macheath, Miss HALLANDE. Peachum, Mr. BLANCHARD,
Lockit, Mr. EMERY. Filch, Mr. COMER. Lucy, Mrs. LISTON.
Polly, Miss STEPHENS, (her first appearance this season)

To which will be added a New Entertainment, called THE

Two Pages of Frederick the Great.

The characters the same as before.

To conclude with, a New, Grand, and Comic Pantomime,

Harlequin & Mother Bunch;
Or, the Yellow Dwarf.

Characters in the Pantomime, and Succession of the Scenery.

THE ENTRANCE to the PALACE OF THE KING of the GOLD MINES
King of the Gold Mines, (afterwards Harlequin) Mr. ELLAR.
Guinea Pig, (afterwards Harlequin's Lacquey) Mr. I. S. GRIMALDI.
Guinea Pig Yeomen, Messrs Squeak, Snort, Grunt, Whistle, &c
Officers of the Gold Mine Cabinet, Messrs. Silver-tongue, Brassly, &c.

THE SANDY DESERT,
In the midst of which grows the ORANGE TREE.
Mother Bunch (the Desert Fairy) Master LONGHURST.
Yellow Dwarf, (afterwards Clown) Mr. GRIMALDI.
The Princess All Fair, (afterwards Colombine) Miss E. DENNETT.

THE CHAMBER OF THE PRINCESS.
The Queen of Golconda, (afterwards Pantaloon) Mr. BARNES.
Ladies of the Bedchamber, Mesdms. Vedy, Wells, Twamley, Shotter.

THE NUPTIAL HALL. High Priest, Mr. LOUIS.

THE CASTLE OF POLISHED STEEL.
The Dwarfish Giant, (Keeper of the Castle)
The Garden of the Castle. The Sea Port of Golconda,
Golcond Sailors.

VIEW FROM MARGATE PIER. STEAM PACKET.
Billingsgate, London Bridge, and the Pool. A Street in London.

OUTSIDE OF WESTMINSTER HALL.
Counsellors Long Bill, Short Brief, Plausible, If Not, Why Not.
Sergeants. Non Suit, Double Fee, Either Side.
Client, (with Gained Cause and Lost Suit)
Inside of the Court of King's Bench. Blackheath, near London,
Cockney Sportsman,

JOHNNY GILPIN'S HOUSE, CHEAPSIDE.
Johnny Gilpin, Mr. COLLETT. Mrs. Gilpin, Mrs. ALLWRY.
Her Sister, Mrs. DALE. Betty, Miss LOVELACK.
The Turnpike-House—Stamford-Hill—The Bell at Edmonton—The
Rotunda of the Bank of England.

THE PALACE OF THE KING OF THE GOLD MINES.

Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

This Evening will be performed the Tragedy of

King Richard III.

King Henry, Mr. POPE,
Prince of Wales, Miss G. CARR.
Duke of York, Master R. CARR.
Duke of Glo'ster, Mr. KEAN.
Duke of Buckingham, Mr. THOMPSON
Duke of Norfolk, Mr. BROMLEY.
Earl of Richmond, Mr. PENLEY.
Earl of Oxford, Mr. WEBSTER.
Lord Stanley, Mr. POWELL.
Lord Mayor, Mr. MEREDITH.
Sir Robert Brackenbury, Mr. FOOTE.
Sir William Catesby, Mr. VINING.
Sir Richard Ratcliffe, Mr. WILLMOTT.
Tressel, Mr. BARNARD. Tyrrell, Mr. DOBBS.
Dighton, Mr. Turnour. Blunt, Mr. Read.
Forest, Mr. Howell.

Elizabeth, Queen of Edward IV. Mrs. EGERTON.
Lady Anne, Mrs. W WEST
Duchess of York, Mrs. KNIGHT.

To conclude wieh the Entertainment of

The Devil to Pay.

Sir John Loverule (first time) Mr. BARNARD,
Butler, Mr. DOBBS. Doctor, Mr- MEREDITH.
Cook, Mr. Isaacs. Footman, Mr. Webster.
Fiddler, Mr. Turnour. Coachman, Mr. Willmott.
Jobson, Mr. MUNDEN.
Nell, Miss KELLY, Betty, Mrs. MARGERUM·
Lady Loverule, Mrs. HARLOWE,
Lettice, Miss TIDSWELL, Lucy, Miss. PHILIPS.
Alice, Miss Edwards. Susan, Miss Cooper,
Jenny, Mrs. Hill.

To-morrow, Folly as it Flies. The Coronarion. and Monsieur Tonson
On Saturday, will be produced a New Play (with music) called
THE PIRATE.